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FIRM: USPTO Art Unit 3635
FACSIMILE NO.: 703 746 3684
FROM: Lang McHardy
DATE: May 30, 2003

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MESSAGE: This is an informal communication for the purposes of discussion during a telephonic interview scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2003.

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Applicant	:	Smith, G.	Group Art Unit 3635
Appl. No.	:	09/692,655	
Filed	:	October 19, 2000	
For	:	ROOF TILE SUPPORT	
Examiner	:	Thissell, J.	

UNOFFICIAL PROPOSED OUTLINE AND AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION DURING TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW SHEDULED FOR MONDAY JUNE 2, 2003 AT 12:00 PM

Many of these integral - ability to adjust - light weight

INTERVIEW OUTLINE:

I. Rejections:

A. The majority of the claims have been rejected as being obvious for one or more reasons.

1. Claims reciting specific dimensions have been rejected as being optimum ranges determinable by the skilled artisan.
2. Claims reciting the placement of multiple roof tiles on a single support element were rejected as being implicitly disclosed by the prior art.
3. Method claims reciting independent placement support elements and roof tiles were rejected with the assertion that "constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art."

II. Applicant's Response:

A. Applicant's support elements are adapted to be used with any of a wide variety of roofing tiles and materials.

1. Prior art teaches support/tile combinations in which supports are specifically designed to be used with a single type of tile.
2. The dimensions of Applicant's tiles are optimized for versatility of use.

"adapted to" in 1st several claims

Kelly - can have any roofing type placed on it

B. Applicant submits that the limitation of placing multiple roof tiles in a single course on a single support element is not met by the prior art without a reference explicitly showing such a teaching. Applicant further submits that Kelly teaches away from the claimed invention.

C. Applicant submits that the claimed support element is not merely a formerly integral structure provided in various elements.

D. Applicant's support elements can be easily modified, adjusted, re-shaped, re-sized, etc in the field in order to accommodate variations and irregularities in roof shapes (chimneys, skylights, etc).

E. Applicant's lightweight, inexpensive and versatile roof tile support element provides a solution to a long-standing problem within the roofing industry.

RCE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Fifield — the element apparatus is the entire thing - tiles can be placed on top col. 4 another layer can be provided

Fifield

1. An apparatus adapted for use with roof tiles and a roofing surface, the apparatus comprising a support element configured to occupy a space between roof tiles and a roofing surface thereby providing support for at least central portions of the roof tiles, wherein the support element has a length of about four feet, a width of between about seven and a half and eleven inches, and a height of between about one inch and about two inches, such that the support element is sized and adapted to support at least three roof tiles of any shape or size in a single course, and wherein the support element is non-integral with the tile or the roofing surface.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element is configured in the shape of a wedge.

3. (WITHDRAWN) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said support element has a triangular cross-section.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said support element has a quadrilateral cross-section.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element is made of expanded polystyrene.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said support element includes at least one groove formed in its bottom surface.

7. (WITHDRAWN) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising arch sections.

Kelly in view McCorsley in view Fifield

8. A roof tile support system, comprising:

a roofing surface;

a plurality of roof tiles; and — McCorsley teaches roof tiles to be placed on support elements over roofing surface

concrete tiles known

a plurality of independent support elements positioned between and in contact with both of said roofing surface and said roof tiles, wherein said support elements support said roof tiles so as to increase the load capacities of said roof tiles, and wherein each support element is configured to support at least three roof tiles of any shape in a single course.

9. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support element is made of a lightweight material.

10. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roofing surface comprises a roof deck with battens.

11. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are made of lightweight concrete.

12. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are separate pieces from said roof tiles and said roofing surface.

13. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein each of said support elements supports four or more roof tiles in a single course.

14. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements have a large surface area for contacting a substantial portion of the area under said roof tiles.

15. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are wedge-shaped.

16. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have arch sections, and said roof tiles are barrel roof tiles.

17. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a triangular cross-section.

18. The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a quadrilateral cross-section.

19. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are made of expanded polystyrene.

20. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows and a first row is supported by said support elements such that the roof tiles of the first row are elevated some distance above a second adjacent row of said roof tiles.

21. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements and said roofing surface.

22. The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows and a first row is supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements, said roofing surface and a second row of roof tiles.

23. A method of installing roof tile supports, comprising:

first, placing a support element on a roofing surface;

then, placing a first roof tile on said support element such that at least a central portion of an underside of said roof tile is substantially supported by the support element; and

finally, securing said roof tile to said roofing surface.

24. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein a second roof tile is placed directly on at least a portion of the support element adjacent the first roof tile.

25. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 24, wherein a third tile is placed directly on the support element adjacent the second tile.

26. (INDICATED ALLOWABLE) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein said first roof tile is placed on said support element such that said first roof tile does not contact a roof tile in an adjacent lower course.

27. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with both said roofing surface and said support element.

28. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, further including a second roof tile, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with said roofing surface, said support element, and said second roof tile.

29. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, wherein securing said first roof tile to said roofing surface comprises driving a nail through said first roof tile into said roofing surface.

30. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 29, wherein said nail also passes through a portion of said support element.

31. The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 23, further including a second support element, wherein said second support element is positioned to the side of said first support element so as to leave a gap between the two elements.

32. The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body comprises a width of about seven and a half inches, a front surface height of about one and an eighth inches, and a rear surface height of about three eighths of an inch.

33. The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body has a width of about eleven inches, and a front surface height of about one and an eighth inches.

34. The support element of Claim 1, wherein the body has a width of about eleven inches, and a front surface height of about one and seven eighths inches.

35. (AMENDED) A support element for use in a roofing system, the support element comprising:

a substantially solid, lightweight body having at least a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface, a rear surface, and a pair of side surfaces;

said top surface having a width dimension selected to allow a roof tile placed on said top surface to extend beyond said front and rear surfaces;

wherein the top and bottom surfaces are substantially planar and non-parallel to one another;

wherein the body has a length sufficient to support a plurality of roof tiles of a single course.

36. The support element of Claim 35, wherein the ~~body comprises a~~ rear surface ~~having~~ has a height less than a height of the front surface, and wherein ~~a~~ the height of the rear surface is about an inch or less.

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